

New & Noteworthy Books and Reports: February 2021

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1. Chasing Success and Confronting Failure in American Schools

By Larry Cuban

Examines what constitutes educational success in the United States. Argues that American education historically, both in terms of academic achievement metrics and reform efforts, has not been "stable nor consistent." Considers multiple factors that complicate academic success such as politics and policies, social dynamics, school district leadership, and differences in communities.

Harvard Education Press, 2020, 260 pages

363.33 ES74F 2020

2. George T. Ruby: Champion of Equal Rights in Reconstruction Texas

By Carl H. Mbneyhon

Profiles [George T. Ruby](#), one of the most widely known of the first generation of Black politicians in Texas. Chronicles Ruby's emergence as a political leader, Radical Republican and delegate to the Constitution Convention of 1868, and his election to the Texas State Senate in 1869. Details his legislative priorities in the Texas Senate and his efforts to ensure the protection of basic civil rights of African Americans.

Center for Texas Studies and TCU Press, 2020, 413 pages

976.4 M742G 2020

3. The Governor and the Colonel: A Dual Biography of William P. Hobby and Oveta Culp Hobby

By Don Carleton

Chronicles the lives and careers of William P. Hobby and Oveta Culp Hobby. Details their political, journalistic, and public service careers, from William's duties as the 27th Governor of Texas and his success in creating a major media empire to Oveta's role in leading the Women's Army Corps and her subsequent rise on the national stage in a presidential cabinet position. Illustrates how the esteemed husband-and-wife "Hobby Team" had a distinct impact on Texan and American history in politics, journalism, war, and philanthropy across the twentieth century.

Briscoe Center for American History, 2020, 885 pages

976.4 C192G 2021

4. South to Freedom: Runaway Slaves to Mexico and the Road to the Civil War

By Alice L. Baumgartner

Examines how thousands from the South Central United States escaped slavery by crossing the southern border into Mexico after the country's abolition of the practice in 1837. Details how political relations between Mexico and the U. S., including Southerners' hopes of annexing Texas and invading Mexico, only fueled a sectional crisis in the United States. Highlights the experiences of individuals from the time, including enslaved persons seeking their freedom.

Basic Books, 2020, 365 pages

973.7115 B348S 2020

5. Governor's Budget, 2022-2023

By Texas Governor Greg Abbott

Presents Governor Greg Abbott's budget priorities for the fiscal 2022-2023 biennium, which include investment in healthcare, workforce development and unemployment, public safety, election security and education. Discusses the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and suggests specific areas where federal and state funding should be directed to strengthen pandemic relief.

Office of the Governor, 2021, 31 pages

[L1800 B859 2022-23G](#)

6. Sources of Revenue: A History of State Taxes and Fees in Texas, 1972-2020

By Texas Comptroller's Office

Reviews the history and current status of Texas revenue sources back to 1972 in a easy-to-navigate document. Includes an overview of major taxes, fees, and assessments by subject, along with helpful tables and indexes. Lists major revenue related bills by session. Provides a resource that allows policy makers and the general public access to an often complicated and difficult topic — taxes.

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, Fiscal Management Division, 2021, 272 pages

[C2600.8 S085 2021](#)